

YOUR HILLIARD

Newsletter & Program Guide

Winter 2020 - 2021

**LAND AGREEMENTS
BRINGING PARKS,
JOBS TO HILLIARD** Pg. 8

**Pg 10 SPONSORS HELP BUILD COMMUNITY
THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS**

Pg 12 K9 ARI JOINS HPD





Your Hilliard is a publication of the City of Hilliard Community Relations Division, 3800 Municipal Way, Hilliard, Ohio 43026.

hilliardohio.gov

Engage With Us!

The City of Hilliard seeks public input 24/7 on a variety of current projects at Talk2Us.hilliardohio.gov, where we encourage you to share your opinions. This site is designed for one purpose: To help us connect.

Talk2Us, Hilliard. We're listening!

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Robert Fisher, Police

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COUNCIL CORNER

Council Approves 5 Strategies to Guide City

This fall, Hilliard City Council approved five broad areas of strategic focus to create additional structure for the City's future priority-setting.

Initial goals tied to these priorities include studying the feasibility of a future Community Center, developing a financial plan that ensures the City can continue offering excellent and innovative services, ensuring aging neighborhoods continue to be maintained and improved, creating a long-term economic development strategy, and expanding community engagement and communication.

The goals were outcomes identified during Council's July visioning retreat. The next step in the process will be for City staff to prepare action plans, timelines, and budgetary considerations to achieve each of the approved goals.

The approved focus areas – along with the first goals to achieve in each of these areas – were:

Excellent, Innovative City Services

Goal: The City will ensure continued delivery of excellent and innovative services in the years ahead by developing a long-term financial plan focusing on fiscal resilience and sustainability.

Family-friendly, Engaged Community

Goal: The City will focus on transparency, public trust, and resident involvement by developing and implementing a community engagement and communication plan.

Distinct, Well-Planned Community

Goal: The City is committed to implementing a strategy that includes public infrastructure maintenance and delivery of City services that support residents as they maintain properties in our older neighborhoods.

Quality Commercial Development

Goal: The City will create and implement an economic development plan focused on the attraction, retention, growth, and creation of businesses and jobs that provide a strong tax base and quality development.

Valued Cultural and Recreational Amenities & Programs

Goal: The City will meet the community's needs for indoor recreational, health and wellness amenities, and programming by engaging strategic partners to plan and build a new community center.



Front Andy Teater, City Council President; Michelle Crandall, City Manager; Pete Marsh, City Council Vice President
Rear Kelly McGivern, Tom Baker, Omar Tarazi, Les Carrier, Cynthia Vermillion



PARK NAMED AFTER FIRST BLACK LANDOWNERS IN HILLIARD

City Council has named one of the community's parks in honor of the first known black family to have settled in what is now the City of Hilliard.

Merchant Park, located near the current trailhead of the Heritage Rail Trail close to where the community's first train depot once stood, will be officially dedicated in late 2021.

In addition to the Merchant family's rich history in Central Ohio, the Merchant surname also provides a coincidental double meaning for Hilliard's new park, as goods for local merchants were delivered at the train depot associated with Hilliard's founding.

In 1850, Yammer and Tabitha Merchant and their seven children moved to present-day Hilliard from Virginia as part of a movement of previously enslaved individuals who had received freedom upon the death of their enslavers.

The Merchants settled in what is present-day Brookfield Village, becoming landowners and neighbors with other families whose names are still familiar in Hilliard today: Frazell, Fisher, Thomas, and Roberts.

Yammer Merchant bought the land with money he was given by his former enslavers, who gave his family the freedom, money, and horses to start a new life.

The Merchant family's ancestry can be traced to a well-known civil rights attorney in Columbus, John Waddy Jr., who is a descendant of Miles Merchant, and Merchant "family historian" Evonne Merchant Grant, whose research provides more insight into the Merchant family and their beginnings.

According to Grant, education and faith were foundations for the Merchants, who insisted their children stay in school to continue their education at a time in history when many

young people dropped out to take jobs. College was also a priority for the family, including many of the Merchant family women. Fortunately, there were some colleges such as Wilberforce, Central State, and Oberlin that would admit black students, and some of the Merchants even taught at Wilberforce.

Religion also was key to the Merchant family. The Merchants were active in the Central Ohio African Methodist Episcopal Church and played a role in creating the Hilliard AME Church that existed at one time in Old Hilliard.

Yammer and Tabitha's son, John Merchant, was the first family member to become a pastor. He was not the last, though, as many of Yammer and Tabitha's descendants followed that calling in their lives. Many of their descendants pursued careers as teachers and preachers who advocated for black civil rights and education.

After the death of his first wife, the Rev. John Merchant later settled in Delaware County with his wife, Keziah Depp. His unmarked grave is at Wesley Chapel Cemetery.

The Merchant family likely helped with the portion of the underground railroad that once ran up the Scioto River. A man named Pleasant Litchford, who was related to the Merchants through marriage, bought land in Upper Arlington that included the quarry between that community and Hilliard. He became the fourth-largest landowner in the area.

Historic records show a group of formerly enslaved people from Virginia settled near that area in 1832.

Some of the descendants of the original Merchants remain in Central Ohio to this day.

■ Anna Subler,
Community Relations Specialist



CITY LAUNCHES FIRST COMPOSTING INITIATIVE

The first drop-off community composting program in Hilliard is now available to residents, thanks to a SWACO Community Waste Reduction Grant and support from GoZero Services.

Once registered, residents can collect a complementary bucket at the City's new drop-off composting station, located just west of Alt Field at 3740 Municipal Way. Buckets can be emptied any time at the waste drop-off station. GoZero will operate the program and maintain the composting station. Residents may participate by using a provided bucket or one of their own.

"The GoZero composting program is a new initiative that's designed to prevent as much organic waste from entering the landfill as possible," said Operations Crew Leader David Judson. "I'm really looking forward to diversifying our waste reduction program and providing Hilliard residents with another opportunity to make a difference."

Composting is a natural process of recycling organic materials, such as food and yard scraps. It enriches the soil, which helps retain moisture, reduces the need for fertilizers, and helps plants grow. Composting also diverts the amount of waste sent to landfills and reduces carbon emissions that harm the environment.

The City received more than \$9,000 from SWACO to launch the program.

What can be composted?

Fruits, vegetables, grains, pasta, baked goods, beans, coffee grounds, eggs, eggshells, dairy, cooked meat, wood, other plant- and animal-based material, soiled non-coated paper/fiber products, and with written approval "BPI certified compostable" plastic products (i.e., trash can liners/bags, forks, spoons, knives, cups, bowls, plates, straws, and other service ware) are accepted.

What cannot be composted

Rocks, stone, glass, all plastics which are not "BPI certified compostable" (i.e., bags, forks, spoons, knives, cups, bowls, plates, straws, and other service ware), metal, steel, tin, aluminum, electronics, Styrofoam, personal health care products, pharmaceuticals, diapers, non-compostable packaging, and coated paper/fiber products.

Residents can contact Hilliard 311 with any questions at hilliardohio.gov/Hilliard 311 or by calling (614) 876-7361.

■ Anna Subler,
Community Relations Specialist



A Life in Blue

Slone Reflects On 37 Years With HPD

Before beginning her career in law enforcement, Hilliard Division of Police Officer Hyda Slone dreamed of being a teacher and making connections to other people through education.

As it turns out, while she never formally became a teacher, much of Slone's lifelong work still involved building relationships through teaching in programs like DARE, the Citizens Police Academy, and HPD Community Relations.

"I wanted to be a schoolteacher my whole life," Slone said. "Police work wasn't something I had a longing to do. Looking back, I would not change a thing. If I had a chance to do it all again, law enforcement would be my first choice because that was God's plan for me."

For the past 37 years, Slone has been a fixture at HPD, and as she prepares to wrap up her career – she officially retires in April – she will be leaving as one the City of Hilliard's longest-serving employees.

Her career started in 1984 when she joined HPD as a dispatcher. It was a job she enjoyed, but one fateful day became an epiphany for her.

"I listened on the radio to a Columbus police officer die on the air. He was trying to get help, and all I wanted to do was jump up, get in my car, and go and find him," Slone recalls. "I think that's the first time I realized sitting behind a desk and dispatching wasn't enough for me."

So, she enrolled in the police academy, training during the evenings, then dispatching, and sleeping during the day. She graduated in 1986, became an auxiliary officer, and then a full-time HPD officer in 1988.



She served on patrol for five years, and while she has a wealth of collected stories from the streets, she prefers to focus on the times she was able to help people.

“To me, helping people is what law enforcement is about. Not about passing judgments, but about making connections with people, building relationships, and doing the right thing for the community,” she said.

It’s a thread that continued through her career, starting with the opportunity to explore her early passion for teaching by becoming a DARE officer, working with teachers and students in Hilliard City Schools to promote the importance of making smart decisions.

“I thought DARE was God’s way of letting me do what I’ve always wanted to do: teach,” Slone said. “I was blessed to be able to move into that position. I did that for years and years, and it was wonderful.”

But, eventually, Slone again decided she wanted something new. She began serving as a mentor with the National DARE Association that was taught at the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy – again, nurturing her desire to teach others, this time fellow police officers.

Eventually, Slone moved into HPD Community Relations, which included the teaching role Slone may be best known for: creating and managing the national award-winning Citizens Police Academy, in which civilians experience the world of first responders through 14 weeks of hands-on courses covering everything from criminal investigation to firefighting.

The program always has a waiting list of interested students, and many of its graduates continue to volunteer to support HPD in variety of capacities – continuing to build on the lessons taught and relationships built thanks to Slone’s efforts.

“They are our extended police family,” Slone said.

As she readies for retirement, Slone said she is looking forward to placing greater priority on her family. And as for the things she leaves behind? The impact she’s had on so many people through her work?

“In all honesty, I say that I didn’t do this,” Slone said. “I credit my faith. Your faith is what gets you through the highs and lows. I also hope that the community, caring environment our agency has established continues long after I’m gone.”



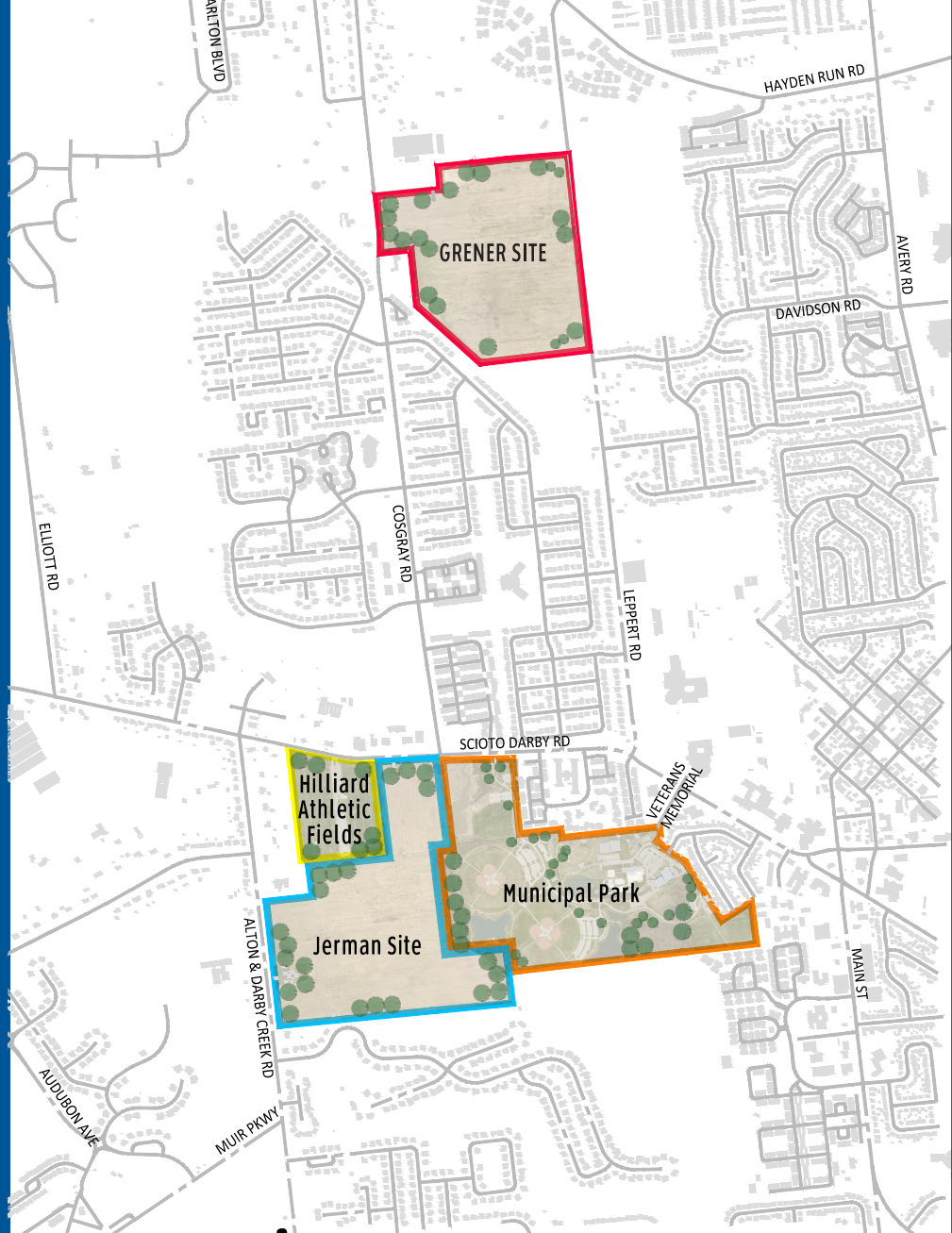
■ David Ball,
Community Relations Director



Officer Slone with Mascot “Leo” and Chief Fisher at Senior Fair Day.

A TALE OF TWO SITES

Land Agreements Bringing Parks, Jobs to Hilliard



In western Hilliard this fall, two large fields were planted with yellowing soybeans – and the promise of bigger things to come.

For years, the first parcel of land – owned by the City of Hilliard along Cosgray Road – had been envisioned as a home for needed community athletic fields. But building such facilities was determined to be cost-prohibitive after detailed plans for developing that land were produced.

So, City leaders began exploring other ways Hilliard could create additional athletic spaces while making the best use of the Cosgray Road land.

The solution came thanks to partnerships that resulted in agreements to develop needed parkland while also bringing hundreds of high-paying jobs to the community.

In short, the City bought 20 acres of additional property from Hilliard City Schools adjacent to the 97 acres it already owned along Cosgray Road. It then agreed to sell most of that property for a data center development. City Council committed at least 75 percent of the proceeds from

that sale to buying, developing, and improving parkland elsewhere in Hilliard.

In a separate agreement, Hilliard bought the Jerman property, 125 acres of farmland on Scioto-Darby Creek Road adjacent to Municipal Park and Hilliard Soccer Complex. It plans to construct athletic fields, park amenities, and a road extension to improve area traffic flow.

The result? The community will get athletic fields and other park and wellness amenities; a high-quality data center development will create 100 new jobs; and Hilliard City Schools, the City of Hilliard, and Norwich Township will benefit from revenues created by the new development.

“This is a win for pretty much everyone,” said Michelle Crandall, Hilliard City Manager. “The data center development is a low-impact use that brings in significant revenue without adding students to Hilliard Schools. It causes minimal traffic and requires few demands on services compared to many other types of development, such as residential and retail projects.”

Brian Wilson, Hilliard City School District Treasurer, said the District views this deal as a win for all involved.

“We are very appreciative of the City working with us on this economic development project,” Wilson said.

“Certainly, an added benefit is the sale of the property, which will result in additional dollars for capital improvement projects in the District.”

City Council President Andy Teater said the additional parkland also is vitally needed.

“We repeatedly hear from those involved in youth and adult sports in our community that there is a tremendous need for additional fields for soccer, baseball, softball, and other sports,” Teater said. “This package of agreements makes it possible to provide all that. This is the kind of high-caliber development communities across the country are actively competing to attract. The fact that Hilliard is seen as a destination for this type of high-tech opportunity speaks highly of our community.”

■ David Ball,
Community Relations Director

BENEFITS

- The \$200 million data center development will create 100 new jobs with an annual payroll of \$8 million.
- Hilliard City Schools will receive approximately \$2 million per year in revenue when the data centers are fully developed. The City will receive an estimated \$160,000 per year in added income tax revenues. Norwich Township will receive more than \$70,700 per year in new property tax revenues.
- The City will use 75 percent of the proceeds from the Cosgray Road property sale to buy, develop, or improve parkland within the City.
- The City bought 125 acres of land south of Scioto-Darby Creek Road, adjacent to Municipal Park and existing City-owned athletic fields. This land will be developed with athletic fields and additional park amenities.
- The Scioto-Darby Road property purchase will produce other community benefits, including the addition of a road through the site that will improve traffic flow.

HELP US BUILD THIS PARK!

The City of Hilliard plans to develop 125 acres of land along Scioto-Darby Creek Road, just west of Municipal Park, with athletic fields and other amenities. Before the City begins the development process, we'd like to hear our community's ideas for what kinds of facilities and amenities they would like to see in this new park.

Share your ideas with us at [Talk2Us.hilliardohio.gov](https://talk2us.hilliardohio.gov).

Read more at bit.ly/2VYrZDP



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SPONSORS HELP BUILD COMMUNITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Baristas are serving up more than just lattes and steaming hot cups of dark roast coffee at Coffee Connections.

Through the Old Hilliard coffee shop's commitment to its home community – evidenced by frequent sponsorships and participation in City of Hilliard events and activities – Coffee Connections is also building community.

“Coffee is simply a means for us to create connections. It's a part of our DNA to serve and give back however we can find a way!” said Sharon Grenier, owner and operator of the Old Hilliard shop. “All the amazing events and activities the City produces makes it so easy to get involved.”

“Coffee Connections gives this community incredible support and sweat equity,” agreed Angela Zody, Economic Development Administrator. “Whatever we need, whenever we need it, they are there. They are just amazing.”

Coffee Connections is not alone in seeing value in partnering with the City through sponsorship activities.

From family-owned companies to international corporations such as BMW Financial Services, sponsorships are key community connections for many local businesses.

“There are a ton of Hilliard businesses that want to support the community,” Zody said.

“Graeter's Ice Cream immediately comes to mind. They're always asking how they can be a part of things, how they can give back. For example, last July, the City held a neighborhood decorating contest. Graeter's said, ‘We want to be there to give the winners ice cream. We want to celebrate something as simple as the neighborhood that was being the most patriotic.’”

There is an appropriate sponsorship fit somewhere for every local business, regardless of size, Zody said. Some businesses seek out smaller activities such as sponsoring Saturday morning Motivation at the Station yoga and workouts. Others attach their company names to large

City-hosted events, such as the July 4 Freedom Fest or the summer concert series, Celebration at the Station.

Zody said one great example of this is Credit Union of Ohio, which partners with the City in extraordinary ways. For example, Hilliard could not have brought in a nationally known performer like country star Rodney Atkins in 2019 without them.

Jill Gerschutz, Vice President of Marketing for Credit Union of Ohio, said her company believes they are more than just a financial institution. They are an integral part of the fabric of the communities they serve.

“Credit Union of Ohio is proud of its partnerships with Hilliard,” Gerschutz said. “It is a reflection of our company values that we have been able to help Hilliard make Freedom Fest and Celebration at the Station unique, family-friendly events for the community.”

Zody said Hilliard businesses enjoy being a part of City-sponsored family events such as the tree lighting and our fall festival, because these activities bring the community together.

“When our businesses become part of these family-friendly events, their brand equity goes up, because they’re seen as part of giving this amazing event to Hilliard. In return, the community feels good about supporting these Hilliard businesses,” Zody said.

BMW Financial Services is another company that celebrates its place in the community through sponsorships. In addition to activities such as sponsoring events and volunteering employee teams to clean Hilliard parks, BMW support helps make the educational Safety Town activities successful each summer for local children.

“BMW is passionate about teaching kiddos about road safety,” Zody said. “When they heard about the City’s Safety Town, they provided tricycles and bike helmets. It was a perfect match.”

Zody said she is always happy to explore sponsorships and other kinds of partnerships with local businesses. After her position was recently moved into the Economic Development Department, her role as a liaison to the business community has also expanded.

“Placing sponsorships with Economic Development is a great fit,” she said. “I am constantly out in the community, talking to businesses, seeing if there are additional ways the City can support them. We’re building connections, and sponsorships are just one part of those relationships.”

■ David Ball,
Community Relations Director



Left to Right: Jill Gerschutz, VP of Marketing and Strategic Planning at Credit Union of Ohio, poses with Angela Zody, Economic Development Administrator for the City of Hilliard.



K9 ARI JOINS HILLIARD POLICE

When someone holds a pizza in front of K9 Ari's nose, he doesn't just smell pizza.

He smells the buttery, garlicky crust. He smells the milky, salty cheese and the greasy, spicy pepperoni.

And he smells the acidic tomato sauce, the oregano, the cardboard box, the person holding it, and every part of the car they were driving.

The dog smells layers of everything, which is among the reasons the 2-year-old Belgian Malinois excels at his job with the Hilliard Division of Police.

K9 Ari has been on the job with HPD since fall 2020. He's the eighth furry face to join the agency since the K9 program was established in June 2005.

In addition to their keen sense of smell, Belgian Malinois are known for their athletic bodies, focused attention span, and extreme intelligence.

Like all HPD dogs, K9 Ari is considered a "dual purpose" dog, meaning he is trained in criminal apprehension, tracking, article searches, and narcotic detection. For K9 Ari, apprehension is his favorite game of hide and seek, said Officer Dustin Kaiser, Ari's handler.

K9 Ari was born in France and obeys commands spoken in French. He underwent obedience training there before being flown to Ohio to complete training at Storm Dog Tactical. Once in Ohio, K9 Ari and Kaiser trained together to become a certified team.

BAIRD NEXT NORWICH FIRE CHIEF

A transition in leadership will take place within the Norwich Township Fire Department in January.

Battalion Chief Dave Baird will become the department's next fire chief. He will take the helm from Jeff Warren, who has served as chief since 2014.

Warren is opting to execute a reassignment clause in his contract and will voluntarily return to the role of battalion chief — a position that allows him to respond to emergency calls.

Additionally, Assistant Chief Greg Young will retire after 31 years of service on Feb. 1, 2021. Captain Jake Wells will take on his role.

Baird is a 1995 graduate of Hilliard High School and was a full-time firefighter at the Jerome Township Fire Department before becoming a full-time Norwich firefighter in 2002.

Baird was promoted to lieutenant in 2012 and battalion chief in 2019.

Norwich Township serves the greater Hilliard area.

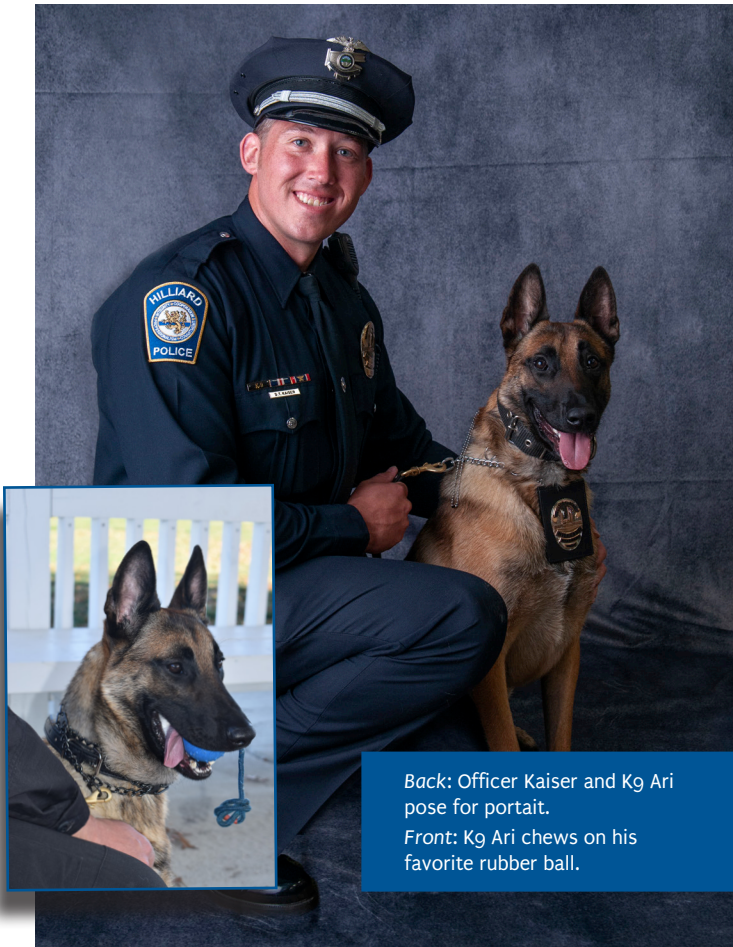
■ Andrea Litchfield,
HPD Public Relations Specialist



Incoming Chief Dave Baird



Left to right: Chief Jeff Warren and Assistant Chief Greg Young



Back: Officer Kaiser and K9 Ari pose for portrait.
Front: K9 Ari chews on his favorite rubber ball.

It's been a bittersweet transition for Officer Kaiser, who lost his previous partner, K9 Jawaak, in spring 2020 as a result of a brain tumor.

"Their personalities are 100 percent opposite," said Kaiser, who has served as a Hilliard police officer since 2013. "Jawaak was calm and methodical—he liked to take his time. Ari is quick. I've had to speed up my pace to be able to react with him."

The handler has learned to adapt his style to suit his new partner, whom he describes as "very energetic, friendly, motivated, and playful."

K9 Ari is settling in at home with his new family, which includes Vinny, a big rescue dog brother. After work each evening, the two spend an hour playing to "wind down." A K9's reward is praise from his handler, and Ari loves his blue rubber ball.

The team is one of three currently serving the City of Hilliard. They join K9 Kane and Officer Matt Braden, and K9 Max and Officer Hunter Schweickart.

On average, the K9 unit is used about 200 times per year, mostly for narcotic detection. The unit is often called upon by other law enforcement agencies throughout Ohio for assistance and works closely with Hilliard City Schools in its dedication to keeping the buildings drug-free.

■ Andrea Litchfield,
HPD Public Relations Specialist

HILLIARD RECOVERY COURT PROGRAM RECEIVES \$500,000 IN GRANT FUNDING

The City of Hilliard was awarded a federal grant totaling nearly \$500,000 through the Department of Justice to expand the City's Recovery Court services.

The grant allocates \$496,779 over three years, allowing Hilliard Recovery Court to increase the number of participants it serves each year, fund a full-time position, and improve participant supervision and testing.

Since the program started in May 2019, Hilliard Recovery Court has offered evidence-based recovery support that follows the recommended guidelines from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) to 11 people suffering from substance use disorder. With this grant, it will be able to serve up to 60 participants during the next three years.

The recovery court program offers those who face misdemeanor or criminal charges a two-year alternative program to serving jail time. Participating does not add

charges to a criminal record and provides the kinds of support needed to help live a life free from substance abuse.

Treatment involves creating an individualized strategy to help participants gain long-term financial security, housing, valuable community relationships, and recovery support networks that will assist in transitioning away from the program.

"Programs like this are a critical part of our criminal justice system, as they focus on prevention and rehabilitation, giving participants a better chance at recovery," said Dawn Steele, Hilliard City Prosecutor. "Through Hilliard Recovery Court, we can increase the safety of the community and improve the quality of many lives."

■ Anna Subler,
Community Relations Specialist

CITY ALLOCATES \$450K IN CARES ACT FUNDS TO BUSINESSES, NON-PROFITS

Eight community non-profit agencies and dozens of local businesses received COVID-relief grants in October and November through allocations of CARES Act funds from the City of Hilliard.

In October, Council provided the Hilliard Community Foundation with a \$150,000 grant, with the goal of supporting non-profit agencies that provide health and human/social services and that have been negatively affected by the pandemic.

Agencies receiving the funds were Dot's Tots, Hilliard Food Pantry, Patches of Light, United Methodist Church Preschool, First Baptist Church of Hilliard, SON Ministries, Kiwanis Club, and St. Brendan Church. The grants will help these agencies provide needed health and human services to Hilliard residents.

In addition, 60 local businesses were awarded grants of up to \$5,000 to cover COVID-specific expenses they experienced in 2020. City Council allocated up to \$300,000 for these grants. The Hilliard Small Business Recovery Program was managed in partnership with Hilliard Development Corporation.

"Many Hilliard small businesses were negatively affected by the COVID-19 shutdown. This is the latest effort by the City and HDC to support those local small businesses and support the local economy during this challenging time," said David Meadows, Director of Economic Development.

■ David Ball,
Community Relations Director



COUNCIL PASSES RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RACISM, PROMOTING MUTUAL RESPECT

Hilliard City Council members passed a resolution in October to officially condemn racism and other forms of discrimination in the Hilliard community and to identify steps the City will take to promote respect and fair treatment for every individual in the community.

In passing Resolution 20-R-72, City Council members affirmed their desire to express their “support and encouragement of efforts and actions that will help us realize our highest ideals of Hilliard as a community of inclusion and fair treatment for all residents, businesses, employees and visitors.”

The resolution specifically addresses a number of topics, including requirements that City staff review all policies,

programs, and services to ensure equity and a bias-free environment. The resolution addresses requirements to ensure exceptional service for all residents and that the City Manager periodically provide Council a report on the City’s progress in these areas.

Resolution 20-R-72 also includes topics such as staff training, support of statewide law enforcement standards and training, and a requirement that the City hold and promote activities that celebrate our community’s diversity.

■ David Ball,
Community Relations Director

COUNCIL MOVES FORWARD WITH IMPROVEMENTS ON SCIOTO DARBY AND WALCUTT ROADS

Hilliard City Council approved construction on Scioto Darby and Walcutt roads that will add a roundabout at Walcutt Road and a multi-use path on Scioto Darby Road between Scioto Farms Drive and Leap Road.

These improvements will increase vehicle capacity and improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers on Scioto Darby and Walcutt roads.

“Upon completion of the project, motorists will see a significant reduction in back-ups and their travel time during peak periods,” said Director of Transportation Letty Schamp. “The addition of the shared-use path provides a critical link to the City’s pathway infrastructure. This new connection will allow pedestrians to conveniently and safely walk or bike to grab a doughnut, meal, or a drink with their family and friends.”

The City received a grant from Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for \$1 million. Total cost of the Scioto Darby and Walcutt roads improvement project is \$1,920,000.

A public meeting, feasibility study, and evaluation of alternatives were completed in 2018. Construction is expected to start in early 2021 and finish in summer 2021. Scioto Darby Road will close for approximately two weeks in summer 2021. More information will be announced on the City’s website as the project progresses.

■ Anna Subler,
Community Relations Specialist



CAN YOU NAME THE PARK?

Visit one of Hilliard's 25 parks this winter! This year's coronavirus pandemic has made the allure of parks and nature stronger than ever. Fortunately, you can still enjoy most of what Hilliard parks have to offer during the coldest months of the year. Consider picking up a new hobby such as bird-watching, nature photography, or disc golf. You might even try a chilly bike ride on the Heritage Rail Trail, sled down the hill at Roger A. Reynolds Municipal Park, or bring your pup to run out some energy at the Heritage Trail Dog Park. What are you waiting for? Bundle up and explore Hilliard today!

MATCH THE PARKS TO THE PICTURES

Weaver Park

Heritage Rail Trail

Mildred Park

Roger A. Reynolds Municipal Park

Latham Park

Heather Ridge Park

Hayden Run Village Park

Darby Glen Park

Tinapple Park

Reibel Woods

Hamilton Park

Britton Farms Park

#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8



#9



#10



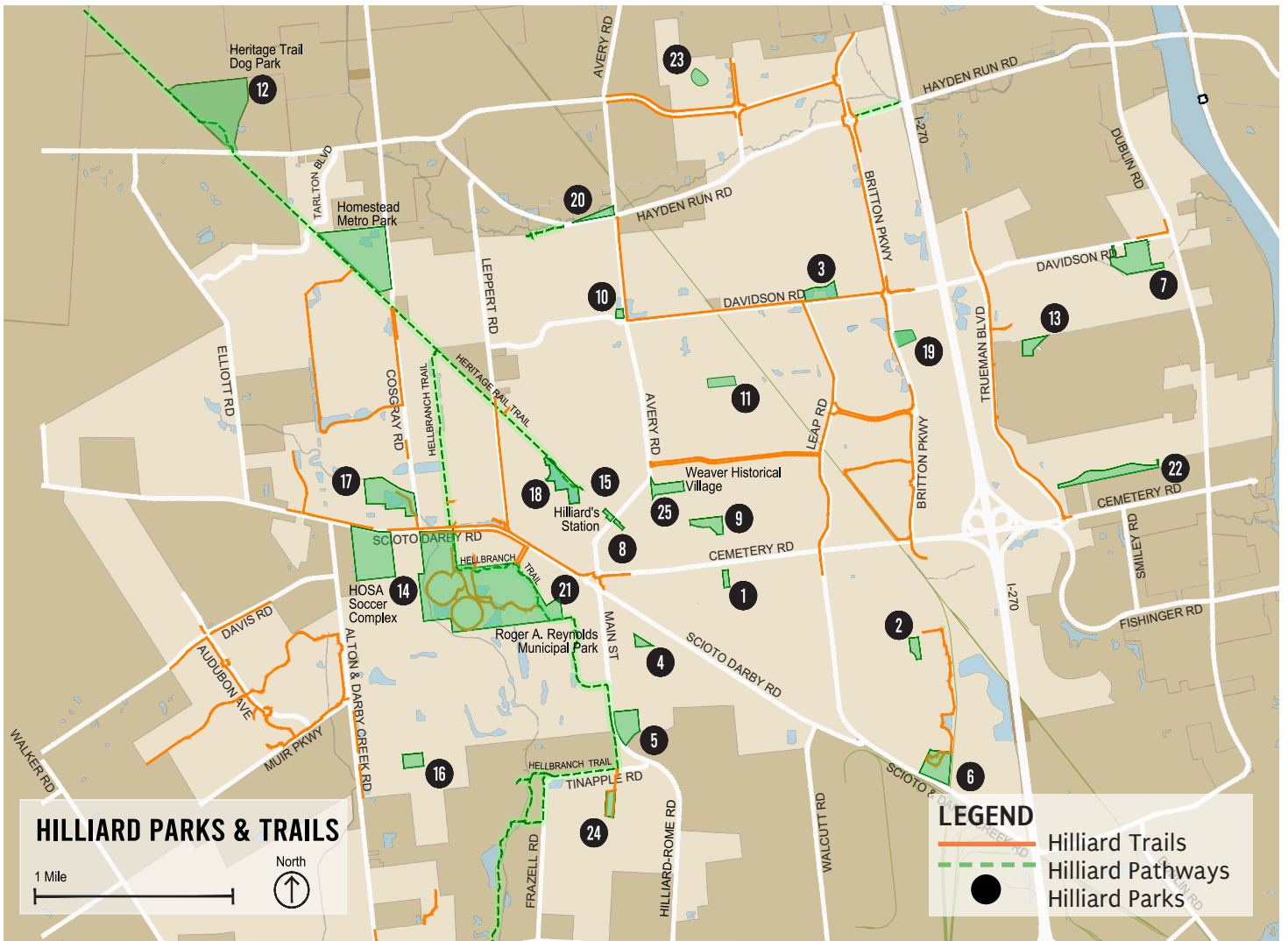
#11



#12



Answers: #1 Heather Ridge Park, #2 Heritage Rail Trail, #3 Tinapple Park, #4 Reibel Woods, #5 Hayden Run Village Park, #6 Weaver Park, #7 Mildred Park, #8 Britton Farms Park, #9 Latham Park, #10 Darby Glen Park, #11 Hamilton Park, #12 Roger A. Reynolds Municipal Park



Hilliard's Parks

From wooded areas to athletic facilities, Hilliard's Recreation and Parks Department maintains 25 developed parks that provide diverse recreational and leisure activities for the community. The department also organizes special events, maintains municipal pools, and sponsors educational, fitness, and volunteer activities for community members of all ages.

By providing a clean, safe and well-maintained environment with a friendly, professional, and wholesome atmosphere, the Recreation and Parks Department takes pride in providing endless economic, social, and health benefits to the Hilliard community.



BRITTON FARMS PARK



HILLIARD EAST PARK

	Adaptive Swing	Amphitheater	Ball Field	Basketball Court	Cricket Pitch	Disc Golf	Fishing Pond	Lacrosse	Fountains	Gardens	Green Space	Grills	Historical Village	Memorial	Natural Path	Paved Path	Pickleball Courts	Picnic Area	Playground	Public Pool	Restrooms	Sand Volleyball	Shelter House	Sledding Hill	Soccer Facility	Splash Pad	Tennis Court	Walking Path
1 Alt Field 3740 Municipal Way			●																●								●	
2 Beacon Fields 4375 Edgewyn Avenue			●								●					●												
3 Britton Farms Park 4500 Davidson Road							●					●				●		●					●					
4 Conklin Park 1000 Boucher Drive											●								●									
5 Cross Creek Park 3342 Hilliard Rome Road					●			●			●														●			
6 Darby Glen Park 4340 Swenson Street											●	●			●	●			●				●				●	
7 Father Roderic J. DiPietro Park 3481 Davidson Road			●								●	●			●								●		●			
8 First Responders Park 4020 Main Street									●				●					●										
9 Hamilton Park 4950 Hamilton Road			●								●								●									
10 Hayden Run Village Park 5226 Davidson Road						●					●							●	●				●					
11 Heather Ridge Park 4833 Hawkstone Road											●								●									
12 Heritage Trail Dog Park 7262 Hayden Run Road											●					●		●					●			●*		
13 Hilliard East Park 4450 Schirtzinger Road	●										●							●	●	●			●			●		
14 HOSA Soccer Complex 6371 Scioto Darby Road											●														●			
15 Hilliard's Station Park 4021 Main St		●																●			●					●		
16 Lakewood Park 3180 Walkerview Dr											●																●	
17 Latham Park 6400 Cosgray Road						●					●																●	
18 Merchant Park 5467 Center St						●					●					●		●										
19 Mildred Park 4592 Britton Parkway											●																	
20 Reibel Woods 6000 Hayden Run Road											●			●														
21 Roger A. Reynolds Municipal Park 3800 Veterans Memorial Drive	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
22 Scioto Run Nature Trail 3757 Scioto Run Blvd											●				●												●	
23 Silverton Park 5075 Silverton Way											●																●	
24 Tinapple Park 5503 Hyde Park Drive				●							●	●				●		●	●				●					
25 Weaver Park 4100 Columbia Street											●	●	●					●	●		●		●					

*Splash pad for dogs only

Active ● Aquatic ● Community ● Sports ●



HAYDEN RUN PARK



MILDRED PARK

PARK HIGHLIGHTS

Fishing Ponds

A fishing license is not required to fish at any of the ponds in Hilliard City parks. Enjoy a day of fishing at Britton Farms Park, Hayden Run Village Park, Latham Park, or Roger A. Reynolds Municipal Park.

Horseshoe Courts

Eight blue clay courts in Roger A. Reynolds Municipal park are maintained and used by the Hilliard Horseshoe Club on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. See hilliardhorseshoeclub.org for more information.

Sledding Hill

Nothing says winter like a good sled ride! Hit the hill at Roger A. Reynolds Municipal Park for a day of snowy fun.

Pickleball Courts

Roger A. Reynolds Municipal Park is home to two pickleball courts. Pickleball is the latest sports trend for adults and seniors to stay active, healthy, and have fun!

First Responders Park

Vowing that “we will never forget,” the City of Hilliard created a place for reflection to pay tribute to first responders nationwide and to ensure the events of 9/11 are remembered.

Hilliard’s Station Park

Hilliard’s Station Park is near the Old Hilliard trailhead for the seven-mile Heritage Rail Trail. This community event space contains an amphitheater, spray pad, multi-functional building, outdoor café tables, public restroom, and storage/maintenance facility. Architectural features of the two buildings reflect the site’s past use as a train depot.

Heritage Trail Dog Park

Bring your pup to this safe place for off-leash play! The park has one acre dedicated to small dogs and three acres for larger dogs. The park includes fun water play features and a doggie drinking fountain. Pathways through the park lead to benches and shaded area.

Green Space and Fields

The City of Hilliard Recreation and Parks Department Field Policy was established to benefit a variety of youth sport programs in our community with a focus on recreational sports and resident-based organizations. These programs and organizations promote healthy childhood development through positive physical, psychological, and social development across a variety of sporting activities.

This policy establishes the guiding principles, requirements, procedures, and fees that govern the use of City of Hilliard fields.

For more information regarding field rentals, contact Darcy Baxter at dbaxter@hilliardohio.gov.

Volunteers/Adopt-a-Park

Whether adopting a park or helping at community events, dependable volunteers make a huge difference in the community! If you’re interested in giving back to the community, contact Hayley Bush at hbush@hilliardohio.gov.

Sponsorships

Supporting Hilliard means supporting the community. The City hosts great special events that bring our community together, including City of Hilliard Freedom Fest on Independence Day, Celebration at the Station concert series, the holiday tree lighting, and more!

We’re always looking to partner with local businesses to create unique sponsorship opportunities. For information contact Angela Zody at azody@hilliardohio.gov.



Share Your Talents!

Do you have a special skill or hobby you are willing to share? Instructors are always needed to teach new classes and programs.

Stop in and fill out a class proposal form or email recandparks@hilliardohio.gov.

RECREATION & PARKS

Aquatics

The City of Hilliard is making plans to safely open its aquatic facilities this summer, but we also continue monitoring COVID-19 guidance from the State of Ohio, Ohio Department of Health, and Franklin County Public Health. For that reason, we are postponing our standard January sale of pool memberships and announcements about opening dates, facility procedures, and swim lessons until later this spring.

We appreciate our community's continued support and understanding as we work to ensure the safety of our residents and City staff. Visit hilliardohio.gov/pools-passes for updates.

Direct questions to Anastasia Bradley, Aquatics Recreation Supervisor, at abradley@hilliardohio.gov.



Watch for 2021 Pool
Information This Spring

REC CAMP REGISTRATION

The 2021 Hilliard Rec Camp will transition to a traditional 11-week enrichment-style day camp. The camp will be 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. weekdays from June 1 through August 13 (except July 2 and 5). Camp activities will include outdoor group games, sports, arts and crafts, nature, science experiments, and off-site swimming trips and field trips. All main camp activities occur from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., with "after camp" until 5:30 p.m. Contact Geoff Dew, Youth Recreation Supervisor, at gdew@hilliardohio.gov for more information.

Campers must be ages 5 ½ to 11 and have completed kindergarten through fifth grade.

Registration for residents opens at 9 a.m. April 5 and for school district residents/non-residents at 9 a.m. April 12.

SPORTS

Hilliard Recreation and Parks offers sport leagues and activities this upcoming season for all ages. Activities include volleyball, basketball, archery, disc golf, and eSports. Contact Darcy Baxter, Sports Recreation Supervisor, at dbaxter@hilliardohio.gov or visit hilliardohio.gov/sports for details.

FACILITY & PARK SHELTER HOUSE RENTALS

The Recreation and Parks Department rents select facilities and park shelters to community organizations, groups, and citizens. Learn more about renting a shelter, room, or other facility by contacting Hayley Bush, Recreation Supervisor, at hbush@hilliardohio.gov. You can also get more information at hilliardohio.gov/facility-rentals.

Weaver Park rental facilities are managed by Hilliard Historical Society. For more information go to hilliardohiohistoricalsociety.com.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Registration for community garden plots at Municipal Park and Leap Road will open Monday, March 1, for returning gardeners. Registration begins on Monday, March 22, for new gardeners. Go to hilliardohio.gov/community-garden.

For additional questions about the community gardens, contact Hayley Bush, Recreation Supervisor, at hbush@hilliardohio.gov.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Donate the gift of life on Jan. 15 and Feb. 19 from 1-7 p.m. at the Hilliard Senior Center. Make an appointment by calling the Red Cross at 1-800-RedCross or by visiting RedCrossBlood.org. Walk-ins will be accepted. The Red Cross is taking precautions for COVID-19 to ensure your safety while donating.

Use code HilliardSenior for registration. Per the Red Cross, donors must be at least 17 years old.



SENIORS

KIND CARE CALLS

Do you know a local senior who lives alone and might need someone to “check in” on them during the coronavirus emergency? Sign them up for the City of Hilliard Kind Care Call program! City staff will call these seniors on scheduled days to ensure seniors are safe or to just chat with them during a time they might feel alone and isolated. If the senior cannot be contacted, Hilliard Division of Police will check on them in person. Call (614) 876-0747 or email Amy Van Huffel at avanhuffel@hilliardohio.gov between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays to schedule a Kind Care Call.

REFLECTIONS

Seniors, we want to hear your stories. Register for a free time slot and share stories about your life. Tell us about where you’re from, where you’ve lived, where you’ve worked, your family history, your kids and grandkids, your hobbies and projects, and anything else you want to share. We want to learn about the rich histories of our seniors. We will record the stories and compile them to share with your family and possibly the community. The interviews will be by phone or by video call. Interviews are scheduled on Fridays between 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

For current information about senior programs, go to hilliardohio.gov/senior-center or call the Hilliard Senior Center at (614) 876-0747.

CONTACT US

Municipal Building

3800 Municipal Way
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 876-7361
hilliardohio.gov

Hilliard Division of Police

5171 Northwest Parkway
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 876-7321 (Non-emergency)
hilliardohio.gov/police

Hilliard Community Center

3800 Veterans Memorial Drive
Hilliard, OH 43026
(614) 876-5200
hilliardohio.gov/recreation-parks

Senior Center

3810 Veterans Memorial Drive
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 876-0747
hilliardohio.gov/senior-center

Hilliard Family Aquatic Center

3850 Veterans Memorial Drive
Hilliard, OH 43026
(614) 876-4296
hilliardohio.gov/pools-passes

Clyde “Butch” Seidle Community Pool

4450 Schirtzinger Road
Hilliard, OH 43026
(614) 334-4024
hilliardohio.gov/pools-passes

Hilliard Recreation and Parks Weather Hotline

(614) 334-2598

Accuracy of Information

Information regarding City policies and practices included in this program guide is as accurate as possible as of the publication date. More comprehensive information is available at hilliardohio.gov and from City staff. The City reserves the right to modify its policies and practices at any time deemed necessary to ensure a safe and high-quality customer experience. Such updates will be reflected on the website.

Photos and Video

By participating in a program or by visiting a park, facility or event associated with the City of Hilliard, you agree to appear in published photos or video taken by the City for marketing purposes. Thank you for helping us highlight our programs and services.



We have great summer jobs for teens, college students, teachers, retirees and more, including lifeguards, programmers, event support, camp counselors, maintenance, park clean-up, and ballfields grounds keeping!

Go to
hilliardohio.gov/jobs
to learn more.



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hilliardohio.gov

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Hilliard, OH 43026

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HONOR HILLIARD'S HOMETOWN HEROES



Your Photo Here

Hilliard Honors

VETERAN

Rank Title Goes Here
Military Branch Here
War Served

FIRST NAME
LAST NAME

Name of High School



Your Photo Here

Hilliard Honors

ACTIVE

Rank Title Goes Here
Military Branch Here

FIRST NAME
LAST NAME

Name of High School

Hilliard City Schools and the City of Hilliard are partnering to honor our military veterans and those currently serving our country with banners to be displayed in Old Hilliard during 2021 patriotic holidays.

Honor your family's
Hometown Heroes
today by buying a
banner for just \$35!

For complete details and an application,
visit hilliardohio.gov/hilliards-heroes.